

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 /067 W

----- 062635

R 012202Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2709

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: PINOCHET CALLS FOR CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE

1. IN MARCH 31 SPEECH IN PUNTA ARENAS, PRES PINOCHET IS QUOTED IN SANTIAGO PRESS AS STATING: "COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IS BASIC. THIS GOVERNMENT, DAY AFTER DAY, HAS TO LOOK MORE TO THE CIVILIAN SECTOR, /SINCE/ YOU FORM THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULACE. THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE BECAUSE, AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, THERE WAS INITIALLY A LACK OF CONFIDENCE /IN CIVILIANS/, AND SOME POLITICIANS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT FOR THEIR OWN PARTISAN ENDS."

2. COMMENT. MASS CIRCULATION "LA TERCERA" HEADLINED ITS REPORT OF PINOCHET'S COMMENTS "PINOCHET CALLS ON CIVILIANS TO FORM PART OF THE GOVERNMENT," A CONCLUSION NOT JUSTIFIED BY WHAT PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACTUALLY SAID. PINOCHET DID ANNOUNCE AIM OF INCREASED CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT IN HIS SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 ANNIVERSARY SPEECH, BUT NO CONCRETE ACTION ALONG THIS LINE HAS TAKEN PLACE, NOR IS THERE ANY REAL INDICATION THAT IT WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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3. PINOCHET'S REMARKS PERHAPS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN CONTEXT

SET BY GENERAL LEIGH'S MARCH 26 SPEECH (SANTIAGO 1867)
IN WHICH LEIGH DENOUNCED SELFISHNESS AND LACK OF SOCIAL
CONCERN AMONG SOME GROUPS IN PRIVATE SECTOR AND WARNED
OF GOVT MEASURES TO ENSURE "OBLIGATORY UNITY OF DEMO-
CRATIC FORCES." PINOCHET THUS APPERS TO BE SAYING NOT
THAT MORE CIVILIANS SHOULD ENTER THE GOVERNMENT, BUT
THAT THEY SHOULD COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AS
PRIVATE CITIZENS WITH AIM OF WORKING TOGETHER IN COMMON
NATIONAL EFFORT.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA01940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750113-0294
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750493/aaaadgvl.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PINOCHET CALLS FOR CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PINT, CI, (PINOCHET UGARTE, AUGUSTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006